

23. The flow meter according to claim 21, wherein the baseline is a predetermined set of pixels within the image sensor.

24. The flow meter according to claim 21, wherein the plurality of pixels of interest are identified by comparing the image to a background image.

25. The flow meter according to claim 21, wherein the at least one processor is further configured to initialize a background image.

26. The flow meter according to claim 21, wherein the at least one processor is further configured to update a background image using the image captured by the image sensor.

27. The flow meter according to claim 26, wherein the background image is updated in accordance with:

$$P_{background,i,j} = P_{background,i,j}(1 - \alpha_{background}) + \alpha_{background} P_{input,i,j}$$

28. The flow meter according to claim 21, wherein the at least one processor is further configured to update an array of variances using the image captured by the image sensor.

29. The flow meter according to claim 28, wherein the array of variances is updated in accordance with:

$$\sigma_{temp}^2 = (P_{background,i,j} - P_{input,i,j})^2$$

$$\sigma_{background,i,j}^2 = \sigma_{background,i,j}^2(1 - \beta_{background}) + \beta_{background} \sigma_{temp}^2$$

30. The flow meter according to claim 24, wherein the at least one processor is further configured to update an array of integers in accordance with the image captured by the image sensor.

31. The flow meter according to claim 30, wherein each integer of the array of integers corresponds to a number of updates of a pixel of the background image.

32. The flow meter according to claim 31, wherein the comparison of the image to the background image only compares pixels within the image to pixels within the background image if a respective integer of the array of integers indicates a respective pixel within the background image has been updated at least a predetermined number of times.

33. The flow meter according to claim 30, wherein the at least one processor is further configured to:

identify the drop in the image and a predetermined band near an edge of the drop; and

initialize the background image by setting each pixel of the background image to the image unless it is within the identified drop or the predetermined band near the edge of the drop.

34. The flow meter according to claim 33, wherein the at least one processor is further configured to set a pixel of the background image to a predetermined value if a corresponding pixel of the image is within the identified drop or the predetermined band near the edge of the drop.

35. The flow meter according to claim 34, wherein the corresponding pixel of the image has a location corresponding to a location of the pixel of the background image.

36. The flow meter according to claim 21, wherein the at least one processor is further configured to determine the baseline corresponding to an opening of the drip chamber.

37. The flow meter according to claim 21, wherein the at least one processor is further configured to determine whether each of the plurality of pixels of interest is within the subset of pixels if the respective pixel of the plurality of pixels of interest has a contiguous path back to the baseline of the drop forming at an opening of the drip chamber to determine if the subset of pixels are within the plurality of pixels of interest that corresponds to the drop.

38. The flow meter according to claim 21, wherein the at least one processor is further configured to:

capture a first image using the image sensor;

identify the drop within the first image and a predetermined band near an edge of the drop;

initialize a background image by setting each pixel to the first image unless it is within the identified drop or the predetermined band near the edge of the drop;

set pixels within a region of the drop or within the predetermined band to a predetermined value;

initialize an array of integers; and

initialize an array of variances.

39. The flow meter according to claim 38, wherein the at least one processor is further configured to update the background image, the array of integers, and the array of variances using at least one of the image and the first image.

40. The flow meter according to claim 21, wherein the flow meter is configured to be remotely controlled by a monitoring client.

41. The flow meter according to claim 40, wherein the monitoring client is a tablet.

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